Permanent seat in UN Security Council

1686. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has not been able to get a permanent seat in UN Security Council;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the hurdles or impediments in this regard and how they are proposed to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India considers the reform and expansion of the UN Security Council as central to the process of United Nations reform, which has been ongoing for some years. This reform of the Security Council should encompass its expansion, both in permanent and non-permanent categories, as well as improvement in its working methods. The Government continues to actively pursue this issue, including through coordination and engagement with Brazil, Germany and Japan, otherwise known as the G-4 group. India is next participating in a debate in the plenary of the UN General Assembly on December 11, 2006 on the issue of UN Security Council Reform. The object is to keep the focus at the United Nations on this vital issue, while developing a model of UNSC reform that has wide support and acceptance. So far, the progress in this direction has been satisfactory. In this context, there has been a widespread and growing appreciation of India's strong credentials to become a permanent member of the Security Council and a steady accretion of support for its aspirations.

Discussion with President of China

†1687. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discussion with the President of China regarding retrieving the Indian land from China's possession; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the said issue is neither included in the priority list with Government nor any concrete step has been taken in this regard?

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) During the visit of President Hu Jintao of China to India from November 20-23, 2006, the two sides exchanged views on the boundary question. It was agreed that the early resolution of the boundary question would advance the basic interests of the two countries and should be pursued as a strategic objective. The two sides directed the Special Representatives on the boundary question to intensify their work to expeditiously explore the framework of a boundary settlement on the basis of the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles signed in April 2005.

Infiltration of Pak militants

1688. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while Pakistan President issued joint declaration with Prime Minister in Havana in September this year, Government had confirmed report that highly trained Pak militants have crossed over and holed up inaccessible terrains and concentrated in North Kashmir and took refuge in town like Kupwara, Baramullah etc; and

(b) if so, Government's response and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government are aware that despite fluctuations, infiltration of Pakistani militants continues from across the LoC. India has conveyed to Pakistan, at the highest level, that the dialogue process between the two countries would be undermined unless Pakistan takes effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including training camps, launch pads and communication links between terrorist groups on the Indian side and their handlers on the Pakistan side. Pakistan needs to take these steps in fulfilment of the commitment given by it in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004 that it would not permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. Pakistan has always denied its role in supporting cross border terrorism. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met Pakistani President Gen. Musharraf on September 16, 2006. During the talks it was agreed to put in place an India-Pakistan anti-terrorism institutional mechanism to identify